

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SPM-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-12 RSR-01 /173 W
----- 005129

R 210620 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

COMUSTDC

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SPOP CH

SUBJ: PRC POPULATION POLICY-- INCREASE IN A PLANNED WAY

SUMMARY: ADMITTING THAT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS SOME PROBLEMS
MAY ARISE AS POPULATION INCREASES, THE PRC DELEGATE TO THE ECAFE
SESSION SAID CHINA' S POPULATION POLICY IS " INCREASED IN A PLANNED
WAY" AS THE ECONOMY DEVELOPS. HE DESCRIBED SOME OF THE PRC' S
PROGRAMS BRIEFLY AND CLAIMED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS FOR THEM.
ONE NEW INDICATION OF THE PRC' S OPENING OUTWARD IS CHI' S STATE-
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MENT THAT THE PRC IS " READY TO LEARN FROM THE FINE EXPERIENCE
OF THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES."
END SUMMARY

1. UNWILLING TO ACCEPT EVEN A TRACE OF MALTHUSIANISM, DEDICATED
TO THE PROPOSITION THAT THE MASSES ARE THE MOTIVE FORCE OF HISTORY
(AND OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT), YET CONCERNED THAT DEVELOPMENT
TAKE PLACE IN A PLANNED AND CONTROLLED MANNER, THE PRC HAS DIS-
PLAYED FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE THE DILEMMAS IT FACES IN DECIDING
ON A POPULATION POLICY. WHILE CONDEMNING IMPERIALIST EXPLOITA-
TION AS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSERTING
THAT POPULATION GROWTH IS NOT REALLY A PROBLEM, PRC DEPUTY
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE 29 TH ECAFE SESSION CHI LUNG ADMITTED
THAT " UNDER CERTAIN SOCIO- HISTORICAL CONDITIONS, SOME PROBLEMS
MAY ARISE AS THE POPULATION INCREASES." HOWEVER, HE ASSERTED
THAT IT IS " ERRONEOUS" TO SAY THAT THE POVERTY AND BACKWARDNESS
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES " STEM MAINLY" FROM OVER- POPULATION
AND THAT A POPULATION POLICY IS " OF FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE AND
PLAYS THE MAIN ROLE" IN SOLVING THEM.

2. CHI THEN LAUNCHED INTO A GLOWING DESCRIPTION OF CHINA' S
ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT IN THE LAST 24 YEARS GRAIN
OUTPUT HAS RISEN FROM 110 TO 240 MILLION METRIC TONS FOR WHAT
HE SAID WAS A FOUR PERCENT AVERAGE ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE INCREASE
WHILE POPULATION, WHICH ROSE FROM OVER 500 MILLION TO OVER 700
MILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD, HAD GROWN AT ONLY " ABOUT TWO PERCENT."
AS USUAL, THE FIGURES JUST ARE NOT CONSISTENT. EVEN ACCEPTING
CHI' S GRAIN OUTPUT FIGURES, THE AVERAGE ANNUAL COMPOUND RATE
OF INCREASE IS CLOSER TO 3.25 PERCENT THAN TO FOUR PERCENT.
ALSO, ASSUMING THAT THE POPULATION IN 1949 WAS 538 MILLION, A
TWO PERCENT GROWTH RATE WOULD PRODUCE A 1973 POPULATION OF
865 MILLION, SOME 80-100 MILLION MORE THAN PEKING ADMITS.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE 1972 POPULATION WAS ABOUT 878 MILLION
(THE CURRENT UN ESTIMATE), THEN THE ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH HAS
BEEN LESS THAN 1.75 PERCENT, WHICH SEEMS RATHER TOO LOW TO BE
BELIEVABLE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE INCONSISTENCY OF THE BIRT
CONTROL DRIVE IN THE PRC AND THE OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE
RURAL AREAS OR-- AS CHI PUT IT-- THE FACT THAT THE WORK IS " NOT
DEVELOPING EVENLY."

3. CHI DESCRIBED CHINA' S " ESTABLISHED" POLICY AS " POPULATION
INCREASE IN A PLANNED WAY." HE ASSERTED THAT THE CAUSE BEHIND
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IT IS NOT OVER- POPULATION BUT RATHER THE FACT THAT SOCIAL PRODUCTION

IS CARRIED OUT IN A PLANNED WAY WHICH REQUIRES THAT POPULATION INCREASE BE PLANNED, TOO. AMONG THE MEANS USED BY CHINA CHI MENTIONED PLANNED CHILDBIRTH, LATE MARRIAGE AND BIRTH CONTROL; THEN HE ALLUDED VAGUELY TO " ADOPTING DIFFERENT MEASURES ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES." HE SAID BLANDLY THAT CHINA' S BASIC PRINCIPLE WAS " VOLUNTARINESS ON THE PART OF THE MASSES" ENGENDERED THROUGH WIDESPREAD PROPAGANDA AND EDUCATION. IN ADDITION TO STATE GUIDANCE, HE MENTIONED STATE PROVISION OF FREE CONTRACEPTIVES AND RELATED MEDICAL SERVICES.

4. DESPITE THE FACT THAT PEKING COULD EXPECT TO GET A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO A DESCRIPTION OF ITS BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES, CHI LUNG WAS MUCH LESS FRANK THAN EVEN NCNA ITSELF WAS FOR WOMEN' S DAY (ER 5, HK 2340). WHILE SOME OF THE RETICENCE MAY HAVE GROWN OUT OF A DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND CERTAIN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE ISSUE REMAINS A SOMEWHAT SENSITIVE ONE DOMESTICALLY.

5. PEKING STOOD TO LOSE LITTLE BY PROCLAIMING THAT POPULATION POLICY IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF EACH COUNTRY AND SHOULD BE DECIDED WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS CHI' S APPROVAL OF EXCHANGING EXPERIENCE INTERNATIONALLY. ONE NEW INDICATION OF THE PRC' S OPENING OUTWARD IS CHI' S STATEMENT THAT " WE ARE READY TO LEARN FROM THE FINE EXPERIENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES." (NCNA).
DEAN

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PARIS

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